

Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy, Islamabad

AIRC ALERT

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What's New

AMERICAN LIFE

<http://amlife.america.gov/amlife.html>

State Department's Bureau of International Information Programs (IIP) engages international audiences on issues of foreign policy, society and values to help create an environment receptive to U.S. national interests. IIP communicates with foreign opinion makers and other publics through a wide range of print and electronic outreach materials published in English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Persian, Russian, and Spanish. "The American Life" includes interactive elements such as videos, polls, quizzes, and pictorial information, along with traditional word-based stories on American life, society and culture.

HIGHLIGHT DOCUMENTS

1-1/H

IMMIGRANTS JOINING THE MAINSTREAM

Department of State, eJournal USA: Society & Values, Volume 13, Number 2, February 2008.

In the United States being an American depends on accepting some fundamental American ideals — representative government, rule of law, individual freedom. Over the course of this country's history, Americans have welcomed waves of immigrants with a certain ambivalence toward the new arrivals. Even today immigration policy remains an issue on the mind of many Americans. In particular, the question of how to deal with illegal immigrants is the subject of much debate in the U.S. political campaign leading up to the 2008 elections. But this edition of eJournal USA is not about illegal immigrants: but focuses on how legal immigrants to the United States have assumed the identity of Americans, how generations of newcomers entered the mainstream. There are those who say that the United States' strength as a nation its creativity, dynamism, and ready willingness to embrace the new — results in good part from the diversity that immigrants have brought to these shores. This edition of eJournal USA tells the story of immigration and diversity as it has played out through the centuries and continues to play out now.



1-2/H

THE NEXT NEW THING

Department of State, eJournal USA: Society & Values, Volume 13, Number 1, January 2008.

Innovation is the art of creating something new, and everyday in the U.S. and around the world, scientists, students, and everyday people are working to bring to life an idea that is theirs alone. This edition of eJournal USA tells the story of innovators and their creations. Since the time of Benjamin Franklin, when he harnessed electricity using a simple kite and a key in the 1700s, Americans have embraced the power of imagination, ingenuity, and creativity. Each year the United States issues more than 180,000 patents to scientists, students, corporations, and everyday people so that they can protect and build on their idea and introduce it to the world. What unites these innovators is the knowledge that the road to innovation might be long and checkered with failure, but success will come to those who believe in an idea and have the passion to follow through.



U.S.— PAKISTAN RELATIONS

1-3/UP

PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS: Proliferation and Security Issues

By Paul Kerr and others

Congressional Research Service, January 14, 2008.

Pakistani and some U.S. officials argue that Islamabad has taken a number of steps to prevent further proliferation of nuclear-related technologies and materials and improve its nuclear security. A number of important initiatives such as strengthened export control laws, improved personnel security, and international nuclear security cooperation programs have improved the security situation in recent years. Current instability in Pakistan has called the extent and durability of these reforms into question. Some observers fear radical takeover of a government that possesses a nuclear bomb, or proliferation by radical sympathizers within Pakistan's nuclear complex in case of a breakdown of controls. While U.S. and Pakistani officials express confidence in controls over Pakistan's nuclear weapons, it is uncertain what impact continued instability in the country will have on these safeguards.

1-4/UP

PAKISTAN-U.S. RELATIONS

By K. Alan Kronstadt, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division

Congressional Research Service, January 11, 2008.

A stable, democratic, prosperous Pakistan is considered vital to U.S. interests. U.S. concerns regarding Pakistan include regional and global terrorism; Afghan stability; democratization and human rights protection; the ongoing Kashmir problem and Pakistan-India tensions; and economic development. A U.S.-Pakistan relationship marked by periods of both cooperation and discord was transformed by the September 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States and the ensuing enlistment of Pakistan as a key ally in U.S.-led counterterrorism efforts. Top U.S. officials regularly praise Pakistan for its ongoing cooperation, although doubts exist about Islamabad's commitment to some core U.S. interests. Pakistan is identified as a base for terrorist groups and their supporters operating in Kashmir, India, and Afghanistan. Pakistan's army has conducted unprecedented and largely ineffectual counterterrorism operations in the country's western tribal

areas, where Al Qaeda operatives and their allies are believed to enjoy "safehavens."

1-5/UP

THE PROPER U.S. ROLE IN PAKISTAN

By Paul Findley

Washington Report on Middle East Affairs, Vol.

27 No. 2, March 2008, pp. 15-16.

Should the U.S. government attempt to be a major player in resolving the Pakistan crisis intensified by the assassination of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto? One presidential candidate suggested sending in U.S. troops. Others had milder thoughts. My advice: Stand back, stay cool, and consider offering recommendations or taking other action only if the established governmental authority requests it.

1-6/UP

The TROUBLE with PAKISTAN

By Daniel Consolatore

Humanist, Vol. 68 , No. 2, March/April 2008, pp.

11-15.

To its credit, the Bush administration has rejected calls to continue unconditional support for Musharraf, and insisted that the February parliamentary election meet international standards of legitimacy. Not that elections alone will solve Pakistan's troubles--they may very well provoke ethnic tensions in the short term. The threat of military involvement in politics also remains, and further attempts by Musharraf to reclaim personal power could destabilize the country further, as could any aggressive U.S. military action. The various political parties will have to accept the rules of the game themselves, and the majority especially will have to permit, even encourage legal, political opposition. The victor, presumably the PPP, will also have to resist the temptation to corruption, and fight in the civil bureaucracy. If progress is made in these areas however, Benazir Bhutto may yet serve as martyr for the democratic cause, and historians may look back on her tragic and dramatic death as a turning point for Pakistan. And while that might mean less excitement on CNN'S broadcasts from Islamabad, we will all undoubtedly be better off for it.

1-7/UP

U.S. LOOKS FORWARD TO CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP WITH PAKISTAN

By David I. McKeeby, Staff Writer

Department of State, February 29, 2008.

<http://www.america.gov>

The United States welcomes the return of civilian rule in Pakistan and looks forward to working with the new government once it is formed in the coming weeks to continue improvements in democracy, education and governance while promoting security and economic opportunity. "The United States and Pakistan have a common interest in the success of a robust and multi-faceted fight against violent extremism, focused on democracy and economic development as well as on security cooperation," Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte says. "We intend to pursue that common interest vigorously with Pakistan's next government."

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

1-8/IS

THE AFGHAN-PAKISTAN WAR: Threat Developments

By Anthony Cordesman

The Center for Strategic and International Studies, January 31, 2008

<http://www.csis.org/>

Despite continued violence, the threat in Afghanistan has not increased to the point where it can challenge NATO/ISAF forces in open combat, the US has made major gains in striking at the leadership of the various mix of hostile Islamist movements in the south, and similar gains have been scored against the more traditional Taliban leadership in the south.

1-9/IS

CHINA'S CHALLENGE TO US HEGEMONY

By Christopher Layne

Current History, Vol. 107, No. 705, January 2008, pp. 13-18, 6p.

The article discusses whether China will challenge the U.S. as a superpower. The author suggests China's economic growth could increase its political influence. Some analysts believe globalization will lead to peaceful relations between the U.S. and China, while others suggest China should be contained by a coalition of nations using military power. The author suggests a policy of offshore balancing, in which military power

is used only against threats, could prevent increased conflict.

1-10/IS

THE COSTS OF CONTAINING IRAN:

Washington's Misguided New Middle East Policy
By Valia Nasr and others

Foreign Affairs, Vol. 87, No. 1, January-February 2008.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.org>

According to the author, containing Iran is a Cold War fantasy doomed to fail. They say Iran could pose threats to U.S., Arab, or Israeli interests. "But envisioning that a grand U.S.-Arab-Israeli alliance can contain Iran will sink Afghanistan, Iraq, and Lebanon into greater chaos; inflame Islamic radicalism; and commit the United States to a lengthy and costly presence in the Middle East," they say. Iran is not a messianic power aiming to spread Islamic militancy, but rather an ambitious rising state seeking to assert influence in its region. The U.S. should aim to integrate Iran into the region in a way that all relevant powers have a stake in preserving regional stability.

1-11/IS

DEMOCRACY, AL QAEDA, AND THE CAUSES OF TERRORISM: A Strategic Analysis of U.S. Policy

Michael Freeman

Studies in Conflict & Terrorism, Vol. 31, No. 1, 2008, pp. 40-59.

New research indicates that the widespread belief that the power of democracy can defeat terrorism in its many forms is misplaced. Professor Freeman of the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School argues that promoting democracy does little to change perceptions when a nation is also occupied by a foreign army. The belief that promoting democracy will stop the spread of terrorism is based on the idea that terrorism is caused by or encouraged by a lack of democracy and political participation by citizens in a particular nation. But people suffering from the frustrations and humiliations that result from growing economic, social, political and military failures, and without the means to peacefully resolve them, will in time turn to terrorism as an alternative form of protest, Freeman says. And the promotion of democracy in many Middle Eastern countries is often perceived as a threat to Islamic identity and culture, and is unlikely to change economic grievances. And, many in the Middle East also believe

that democracy is unlikely to provide a more legitimate government than one based on religious law, Freeman says.

1-12/IS

IN INDIA'S LENGTHENING SHADOW: The U.S.-Pakistan Strategic Alliance and the War in Afghanistan

By Robert G. Wirsing

Asian Affairs: An American Review, Vol. 34, No. 3, Fall 2007, pp. 151-172, 2 maps.

This article examines the impact of India's growing involvement with the Muslim countries in Pakistan's neighborhood—Iran, the Central Asian republics, and Afghanistan—on the contemporary U.S.-Pakistan strategic alliance, in particular the cooperation of these two allies in waging the war in Afghanistan. Driven largely by its need for expanded access to the region's energy resources, India has been moving rapidly to cement its ties with these countries. This article argues that U.S. and Pakistani objectives in Afghanistan are far from fully convergent, and that they are perhaps least convergent when it comes to India. India's lengthening strategic shadow in the region, it maintains, especially when coupled with its growing strategic partnership with the United States, is bound to have an important bearing on the evolution of the war in Afghanistan.

1-13/IS

THE NEXUS OF GLOBALIZATION AND NEXT-GENERATION NONPROLIFERATION: Tapping the Power of Market-Based Solutions

By Kenneth Luongo and others

Nonproliferation Review, Vol. 14, No. 3, November 2007, pp. 459-473.

<http://www.informaworld.com/>

The authors examine the problem that advanced biological and nuclear technology, once the exclusive province of states, now may pass readily to non-state actors putting economic as well as civilian and military targets at risk. They urge new creative thinking to develop a stronger more flexible next-generation nonproliferation strategy and one that might combine targeted sanctions, political engagement and focused economic incentives so as to “begin the important process of moderating government behavior by empowering the private sector.” While containing the spread of technologies needed to produce fissile materials and

securing fissile material stockpiles remain at the heart of the nuclear proliferation challenge, they also cite the additional challenge of biological proliferation. They note inadequate biotechnology industry oversight and the absence of standardized international rules for biosecurity, especially in Asia. They advocate finding ways to draw the commercial sector into identifying solutions, since this sector has so much at risk financially should a nuclear or biological disaster occur. After examining case studies of formal and informal nonproliferation efforts in Russia, Libya, Iran and North Korea, the authors say the international community is at a critical nonproliferation juncture and it must enlist the full range of stakeholders. A successful future strategy must integrate economic, political and technological issues drawing on key arms control treaties as well as modern ad hoc mechanisms “emphasizing cooperation, flexibility and market-based solutions.”

1-14/IS

RELIGION IN WORLD AFFAIRS: Its Role in Conflict and Peace

By David Smock

U.S. Institute of Peace, February 11, 2008

<http://www.usip.org/pubs/specialreports/sr201.pdf>

In June 2007, reflecting a growing international awareness of the past neglect of religion, Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, the president of the United Nations General Assembly, stated that “promoting a true dialogue among civilizations and religions is perhaps the most important political instrument that we can use to reach out across borders and build bridges of peace and hope.” This report has sought to demonstrate the nature of the religious dimension of international conflict, which is sometimes neglected, often misunderstood, and frequently exaggerated. It has also illustrated how religious leaders have addressed conflict and injustices confronting their societies. In addition, religious leaders have employed a variety of peacemaking techniques, ranging from mediation and facilitation to interfaith dialogue, to address conflict around the globe and make the world a more peaceful place.

1-15/IS

QUESTIONABLE REWARD: Arms Sales and the War On Terrorism

By Rachel Stohl

Arms Control Today, Vol. 38, No. 1, February 2008, pp. 17-23.

http://www.armscontrol.org/act/2008_01-02/stohl.asp

Stohl investigates how various forms of U.S. military security assistance is being used to solidifying partners in the global war against terrorism. In the wake of the September 11, 2001 attacks against the United States, she examines the pattern of arms sales and military training and aid given to 25 nations in every part of the world (except the Americas) which are either front-line states in counterterrorism efforts or face significant terrorist threat in their region. Her article includes two helpful sidebars: one addressing U.S. weapons export policy and another comparing changes in U.S. military assistance and arms sales from fiscal years 1997-2001 to FY 2002-2006. The author suggests that it would be best if the United States abided by long-standing export laws to ensure that arms exports don't "undermine security and stability, weaken democracy, support military coups, escalate arms races, exacerbate ongoing conflicts, or cause arms buildups in unstable regions or are used to commit human rights abuses." This might entail scaling back military aid to close allies such as Pakistan, Ethiopia, and Djibouti, she said, in an effort to promote human rights improvements.

1-16/IS

THE RISE OF CHINA AND THE FUTURE OF THE WEST

By G. John Ikenberry

Foreign Affairs, Vol. 87, No. 1, January-February 2008.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.org>

China appears poised to overtake the United States as a world power, but the transition need not be a bloody one, according to Ikenberry, professor of politics and international affairs at Princeton University. China will face not a single power but the entire Western order of democratic capitalist states. That order, built around rules and market openness, creates the conditions for China and other rising powers to gain status and play a role in global governance. "The road to global power, in effect, runs through the Western order and its multilateral economic institutions," Ikenberry says. The coming power shift can occur peacefully and on terms favorable to the United States, but only by the United States reinforcing the Western order's system of global governance, first by reestablishing itself as its foremost supporter.

1-17/IS

THE TASKS OF DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION AND TRANSFERABILITY

By Valerie Bunce

Orbis, Vol. 52, No. 1, Winter 2008, pp. 25-41.

Bunce, professor of international studies at Cornell University, asserts that there is no single road to democracy. Nevertheless, there are some factors that seem to have consistently positive effects on democratic development, including the existence of a large and diverse civil society as well as a sharp political break with the authoritarian past. Subsequently, these are followed by issues such as regular turnovers in political leadership as well as governing parties and stable state borders. Bunce asserts that a successful democratic transition must also include political institutions which empower parliaments and, in culturally diverse societies, give minorities' political voice without locking them into permanent coalitions. The less significant issues include economic considerations. Nevertheless, Bunce advocates that these reforms are far more likely in democratic settings than in authoritarian regimes and far more supportive for robust economic performance.

1-18/IS

WEAK STATES, STATE FAILURE, AND TERRORISM

By Edward Newman

Terrorism and Political Violence, Vol. 19, No. 4, Fall 2007, pp. 463-488.

Policymakers and scholars have been making the common assertion for a number of years that weak or failed states are the incubators of terrorism. The author, professor of political science and international studies at the University of Birmingham, notes, however, that terrorist groups have come from and operated within countries which have strong, stable governments. Weak and failed states may offer terrorist groups a tactical advantage, but the economic and logistical opportunities of stronger states gives these same groups strategic advantages, he notes. What weak and failed states offer is "an enabling environment," but are not incubators, Newman says. Such a condition, his research indicates, is not a sufficient explanation upon which to make significant policy decisions. State-building as a counterterrorism policy is effective where those governments are also actively engaged in anti-terrorism and counterterrorism efforts. Helping weak or failed states recover and grow is

more an issue of improving regional development than one of counterterrorism, he writes.

1-19/IS

WHAT WENT WRONG

By Noah Shachtman

Wired, Vol. 15, No. 12, December 2007.

In Afghanistan and the 2003 Iraq war, soldiers on the ground handed off coordinates to bombers and fighter planes, who attacked with laser- and satellite-guided munitions. Net-centric warfare was supposed to win in Iraq; while the technology worked well, the most important networks were not electronic but social. Inside the Pentagon, the term network-centric warfare is out of fashion, yet countless generals and admirals still adhere to its core principles. On the streets of Iraq, though, troops are learning to grapple with the guerrilla threat; the failures of wired combat are forcing troops to improvise a new, socially networked kind of war. Today, U.S. troops are performing a wide variety of functions apart with traditional combat. To complement this story, *Wired* asked four photographers to create images depicting the intersection of technology and war.

1-20/IS

A WORLD WITHOUT ISLAM

By Graham E. Fuller

Foreign Policy, No. 164, January-February 2008, pp. 46-53.

To many, Islam seems to lie behind a broad range of international disorders. But a world without Islam would leave the world exactly where it is today, says Fuller, former vice chairman of the National Intelligence Council at the CIA and currently adjunct professor of history at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver. Terrorism, for example, in the name of Islam or any other religion is hardly unique, Fuller says. Religion is the best banner for oppressed peoples seeking to glorify their cause and has been used frequently across the centuries. Rather than being the source of confrontation, religion is the vehicle used by radical groups to articulate grievances. Even without Islam, the face of the Middle East is complex and conflicted, Fuller says; struggles over power, territory, influence and trade existed long before Islam arrived. "At rock bottom," he writes, "conflict between East and West remains all about the grand historical and geopolitical issues of human history: ethnicity, nationalism, ambition, greed, resources, local leaders, turf, financial gain,

power, interventions and hatred of outsiders, invaders, and imperialists. Faced with timeless issues like these, how could the power of religion not be invoked?"

DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

1-21/DGI

THE 2008 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES AND ARMS CONTROL

By Zachary M. Hosford

Arms Control Today, Vol. 37, No. 10, December 2007, pp. 31-34.

<http://www.armscontrol.org>

The U.S. presidential campaign has given voice to a range of views on arms control and nonproliferation topics, ranging from ballistic missile defense to the status of the U.S. nuclear arsenal. The author points out that many of the candidates' positions reflect posturing for the primaries, and the rhetoric may be different once nominees have been endorsed at the Democratic and Republican conventions. Hosford also points out that world events may cause candidates to alter their positions in the final run-up. Still, there is general agreement among the candidates about certain issues, such as that Iran should not be equipped with nuclear weapons. Various candidates see different ways to prevent the advent of nuclear terrorism.

1-22/IS

BORN AGAIN: America's evangelicals are growing more moderate--and more powerful

By Walter Russel Mead

Atlantic Monthly, Vol. 30, No. 2, March 2008, pp. 21-24.

The author reflects on the political activity of evangelical Christians in the U.S. He comments on the 2008 presidential election and discusses the 1776 publication written by the economist Adam Smith called "The Wealth of Nations." He explores the relationship between religion and politics and examines the changes in the beliefs of Christian Americans since earlier times in American history.

1-23/DGI

BURNING AT THE STAKE: How Global Warming Will Increase Religious Strife

By Philip Jenkins

New Republic, Vol. 237, No. 11, December 10, 2007, pp. 14-15.

“By mid-century, water shortages could force countries already suffering from generations of ethnic and religious conflict to explode,” warns Jenkins. This prediction of religious strife induced by climate change has precedent, Jenkins says. The “Little Ice Age” of the 14th century and the famines that resulted exacerbated bigotry and increased the violence against religious minorities in Europe, Jews especially. In today’s world, he writes, “The resource-driven genocide in Darfur, for example, although it involves competing Muslim communities and not Muslim-Christian warfare, is a foretaste of conflicts that could soon be sweeping the whole area, as nations implode in sectarian violence, pulling neighboring countries down with them.” According to Jenkins, the greater globalization of Christianity, while heightening some religious tensions in resource-poor countries, could also help prevent some of the worst abuses. He notes that the National Association of Evangelicals, an umbrella organization whose affiliate groups claim 30 million members, has recognized global climate change as a clear and present danger. “Combining the themes of world stewardship and protecting Christian minorities could lead to a whole new synthesis of religious and political action,” Jenkins says.

1-24/DGI

CULTURAL TOURISM: Seeking Authenticity, Escaping into Fantasy, or Experiencing Reality
By Brian Osborne and others.

Choice, Vol. 45, No. 6, February 2008, pp. 927-937.

Cultural tourism, or culture tourism, can be defined as the subset of tourism concerned with a country or region’s culture, especially its arts. It generally focuses on traditional communities who have diverse customs, unique forms of art and distinct social practices, which basically distinguishes it from other types/forms of culture. Today it is playing a major role in economic development in both the developed and the developing worlds. The authors believe that what history has been to national identity, so cultural tourism, and its protection of heritage, is now to renewing economic vitality. This bibliographical review focuses on recent literature that considers tourism strategies in which culture and heritage are considered integral to the attraction of distinctive places and experiences, especially to studies concerned with the better management of cultural tourism in terms of economic ration-

ality, ecological sustainability, and cultural compatibility.

1-25/DGI

DEMOCRACY PROMOTION: Cornerstone of U.S. Foreign Policy?

By Susan B. Epstein and Others.

Congressional Research Service, December 26, 2007.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/99500.pdf>

Both the U.S. executive and legislative branches of government support democracy promotion in other countries. The Bush Administration has implemented both bilateral and multilateral programs to promote democracy, such as the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA), and requested about \$1.5 billion for democracy promotion in FY2008. Also, it identified “governing justly and democratically” as a key objective of its foreign aid policies. Congress appropriates funds, authorizes programs, and is responsible for oversight. In 2007, Congress considered, among other democracy promotion bills, the ADVANCE Democracy Act of 2007 (H.R. 982). It contains provisions to promote democracy overseas, calls for specific State Department actions and reports, aims to strengthen the “Community of Democracies,” and authorizes funding for democracy assistance for FY2008 and FY2009. Congress is currently carrying out its own program through the House Democracy Assistance Commission (HDAC), which was established in 2005. The Commission provides expert advice to fledgling legislatures. To date, 12 countries have received assistance from the Commission.

1-26/DGI

ENTREPRENEURIAL PHILANTHROPY IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD: A New Face for America, A Challenge to Foreign Aid

By Mauro De Lorenzo and others.

American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, Development Policy Outlook, No. 3, December 2007.

<http://www.aei.org/>

Private philanthropists are redefining what counts as philanthropy and are on the cutting edge of development practice, say the authors. Entrepreneurial philanthropists provide credit and business education to small- and medium-sized enterprises in poor countries. They demand accountability but do not seek to make

money from their efforts. “They have the potential to outflank often moribund development agencies and state-funded NGOs (nongovernmental organizations) by demonstrating that enterprise solutions to poverty are possible, scalable, and sustainable ... The services they offer are not supplied by governments or private companies anywhere in the developing world ... The financial value of their contributions exceeds the U.S. foreign aid budget,” the they write. Among the examples they cite is the New York-based Endeavor, which provides no financing but offers the contacts and training necessary for carefully selected “high-impact entrepreneurs” to attract investment and venture capital. Founded in 1997, Endeavor’s services have helped business owners raise \$871 million in equity. The 267 business owners chosen — most are located in Latin America -- have created 75,000 jobs and in 2006 alone generated \$1.5 billion in revenues.

1-27/DGI

GENERAL OVERVIEW OF U.S. COPYRIGHT LAW

By Brian T. Yeh

Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress, February 5, 2008.

<http://assets.opencrs.com/>

The source of federal copyright law originates with the Copyright and Patent Clause of the U.S. Constitution, which authorizes Congress “To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries.” This report provides a general overview of copyright law and briefly summarizes the major provisions of the U.S. Copyright Act.

1-28/DGI

IRAQ CASUALTIES AND THE 2006 SENATE ELECTIONS

By Douglas Kriner and others.

Legislative Studies Quarterly, Vol. 32, No. 4, November 2007, pp. 507-530.

Kriner and Shen, from Boston and Harvard universities, respectively, find that increased casualty numbers in the Iraq war had a marked effect on the 2006 U.S. Senate elections. Proceeding on the assumption that “even the most national of issues ... may have a strong local component,” they studied 2006 midterm election data from state and county levels. Despite the many facts that may inform the public in their evaluation of

Iraq war policy, the authors maintain the number of American casualties is the “most concrete and publicly visible measure of the war’s costs.” Direct personal contact with war participants significantly influenced perceptions. They studied how the Iraq war was used by a number of candidates in their campaigns. While voting behavior differed from locality to locality, the authors concluded that Iraq war casualties had a significant and negative effect on Republican U.S. Senate candidates. They write that their results offer “compelling evidence for the existence of a democratic brake on military adventurism,” which is strongest in communities sustaining the most losses.

1-29/DGI

LONG TIME COMING: The Prospects for Democracy in China

By John L. Thornton

Foreign Affairs, Vol. 87, No. 1, January-February 2008.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.org>

The Chinese view of democracy differs from the Western view, but many Chinese want more democracy and believe it is coming, according to the author, a professor at Tsinghua University in Beijing and chairman of the board of the Brookings Institution. Elections have been held in rural Chinese villages already for 20 years. Elections of pre-selected candidates have been held in a few townships and counties, the next administrative levels up. Perhaps more importantly, the Chinese Communist Party is putting forward multiple candidates for certain party positions; some observers imagine party factions could emerge in such a scheme that would make the party resemble Japan's long-ruling Liberal Democratic party, where policy differences are part of the legitimate process. The Chinese are also taking steps to make their judicial system and administrative system less corrupt, more open to challenge, and rooted in rule of law. "Optimists believe that gradualism will make the current liberalization last longer than the euphoric, but ultimately failed, experiences of the past," Thornton said.

1-30/DGI

A NEW REALISM: Crafting a US Foreign Policy for a New Century

By Bill Richardson

Harvard International Review, Vol. 29, No. 2, Summer 2007, pp. 26-30.

American foreign policy makers face many new challenges in the 21st century. Problems that were once national have now gone global. The author believes that the U.S. must create a foreign policy that is uniquely adapted to the world of global challenges. America remains vulnerable to terrorism as we fight new security challenges with old-fashioned, military methods. Richardson, governor of New Mexico and former U.S. Representative to the United Nations, identifies six trends that are transforming the world, including fanatical jihadism, illegal weapons trade, rise of Asian and Russian powers, and the growth of globalization in economic, health, environmental and social terms.

1-31/DGI

PHANTOM MENACE

By John B. Judis

New Republic, Vol. 238, No. 4829, February 13, 2008, pp. 20-25.

In this article, the author tries to explore the psychology behind America's immigration hysteria. There have been periodic bursts of anti-immigration fervor in the U.S. since the mid-nineteenth century, mostly directed at immigrants from Eastern Europe or religious groups such as Catholics and Jews. Anti-immigration sentiment against Muslims grew after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks; however, much of the current anti-immigration sentiment today is propelled by native-born Americans who feel threatened by the new global capitalism, as businesses that once flourished in small American towns have cut back or closed entirely and jobs have gone overseas. Anti-immigration fear is expected to play a large role in the in the 2008 presidential elections.

1-32/DGI

THE UNCLE SAM SOLUTION: Can the government help the press? Should it?

By Bree Nordenson

Columbia Journalism Review, Vol. 46, No. 3, September/October 2007, pp. 37-41.

The future of American newspapers has become a topic of increasing concern as circulation wanes and editorial cutbacks affect the quality of journalism. Top editors, experts and a media investor discuss the viability of government support of good news outlets with lagging profits. University of Illinois professor Robert McChesney notes that America's founders protected the press in the Constitution and subsidized three

newspapers in each state, because without that, "there would be places with no newspapers." Serious news-gathering is seldom done in Internet-based media, and newspapers continue to cut investigative reporting resources. This is despite the fact that editorial costs make up only nine to twelve percent of the average newspaper's budget. But there is substantial opposition among journalists to government subsidies adding that it should be carefully considered rather than rejected outright.

1-33/DGI

WEB BEATS PRINT: No Longer on the Fringe, Political Bloggers Now Drive Coverage

By Joe Strupp

Editor & Publisher, Vol. 140, No. 12, December 2007, pp. 22-27.

Mainstream news outlets have embraced the Web log, making political blogs key features of campaign coverage. The author interviews political bloggers from the Los Angeles Times, Reno Gazette-Journal, The Boston Globe, Chicago Tribune and The Washington Post. They say blogs provide more information sooner, but it's demanding work and the results are unpredictable. "It is an online newsreel," says Michael Tackett of the Chicago Tribune's "The Swamp," adding that anything goes: serious reporting comes alongside gossip, trivia and campaign ad videos. Blogs allow greater freedom and can give a local flavor. "It is like a conversation, and it does not take as much context as a story because it is for people who know the context," says the Reno Gazette Journal's Anjeanette Damon. But writing at a fever pitch opens the doors to more editorial slips and errors. Cross-referencing competitors is new. It is part of Internet culture to feature a "blogroll," links to other similar blogs. Blogs also invite readers to post comments. The author maintains that, thanks to blogs, candidates now receive unprecedented exposure.

1-34/DGI

WORLD WIDE WEBS: Diasporas and the International System

By Michael Fullilove

Lowy Institute for International Policy, February 20, 2008.

<http://www.docuticker.com/?p=19414>

On 18 February, the Lowy Institute launched Michael Fullilove's new Lowy Institute Paper, World wide webs: Diasporas and the international system. In this

paper, Michael argues that diasporas (communities which live outside, but retain their connections with, their homelands) are getting larger, thicker and stronger – with important implications for global economics, identity, politics and security. Michael compares diasporas to ‘world wide webs’ emanating from states, with dense, interlocking, often electronic strands spanning the globe and binding different individuals, institutions and countries together. World wide webs offers a fresh take on globalization which raises difficult questions for national governments, including the Australian government.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

1-35/ES

THE DANGEROUS WEALTH OF THE IVY LEAGUE

By Anthony Bianco and others.

Business Week, No. 4062, December 10, 2007, pp. 38-44, 7p, 2 graphs, 4c.

The article discusses the Ivy League universities in the U.S. such as Princeton, Harvard, Yale, and Stanford. Discussions include the rising level of money spent in refurbishing campuses, creating new facilities for scientific research, and the effect on U.S. State schools. Despite the increased spending of Ivies on their campuses enrollment has remained the same while State schools are struggling with the increased rates and lack of funding.

1-36/ES

FOOD PRICES, CHEAP NO MORE

Economist, Vol. 385, No. 8558, December 8, 2007, pp. 81-83.

During the last couple of years, food prices have risen dramatically, and are at their highest levels in years. In the past, high food prices have usually been the result of poor harvests, but they are now occurring during a time of great abundance: the total cereals crop for 2007 is about 1.66 billion tons, the largest on record, and 89 million tons more than the 2006 harvest. At the same time, world grain reserve stocks as a percentage of production are at all-time lows. Several factors are contributing to this rise. First, demand for meat is growing in China and India, resulting in much greater consumption of grain to feed animals. Secondly, pro-

duction of biofuels is consuming an ever-greater percentage of corn and other crops, that would otherwise go to feed people. Third, rising oil prices are increasing the cost of growing, processing and transporting grain. This has had an effect on other non-grain crops, as farmers devote more acreage to growing corn or soybeans for biofuels. The increase in food prices will hit developing countries the hardest; while farmers will benefit, the majority of the world's poor are net food buyers.

1-37/ES

GLOBAL PROGRESS REPORT, 2008

Current History, Vol. 107, No. 705, January 2008, pp. 3-12.

The article discusses global progress in areas such as politics, economics and security. The authors note the U.S. has not adopted international standards on issues such as torture. They suggest that U.S. involvement in regulations regarding global trade and nuclear proliferation could cut costs. Democratization has been hindered in nations such as China, Pakistan and Russia. The authors warn that the global economy could encounter a recession.

1-38/ES

GLOBAL WARMING LOSERS

By William Cline

International Economy, Vol. 21, No. 4, Fall 2007, pp. 62-65.

The author writes that his studies show that global warming will have a more adverse effect on agriculture than has previously been assumed. While some northern regions will become more agriculturally productive due to rising temperatures, they will be more than cancelled out by losses in agricultural productivity in temperate and equatorial areas. Regions that could experience a 25 percent or greater loss in productivity in the coming decades includes much of the developing world — Central and South America, Africa, the Middle East, South Asia and the entire Indian subcontinent. Cline notes that these findings indicate that international efforts to curb global warming are essential, and that the next step is to deflect the rapidly rising emissions of developing countries. He singles out India, whose dire agricultural prospects should spur it to participate in international efforts to reduce emissions, and exert peer pressure on China to do so as well.

1-39/IS

THE LAST EMPIRE: China's Pollution Problem Goes Global

By Jacques Leslie

Mother Jones, Vol. 33, No. 1, January/February 2008.

The author writes that the emergence of China as a world economic power is "an epochal event, as significant as the United States' ascendancy after World War II." It has also resulted in the biggest building boom and the largest transfer of natural resources in human history. China has become the world's biggest producer of manufactured goods, the most ravenous consumer of raw materials and natural resources, and the world's biggest polluter, having recently surpassed the U.S. as the biggest emitter of carbon dioxide. The environmental degradation both in China and abroad, ranging from deforestation, loss of species, desertification and mercury and sulfur dioxide pollution, has been staggering. The author notes, however, that when economic-development delegations from China began visiting the West in the late 1970s and early 1980s to see how developed economies fostered growth, the conclusion they came to was that automobile-centered suburban sprawl was the model to be followed. "The United States passed up the opportunity it had at the beginning of China's economic transformation to guide it toward sustainability, and the loss is already incalculable," writes Leslie. He notes that, even though humanity is at the edge of a global environmental abyss, it is presumptuous to expect China to cut its emissions equally with the U.S.; "all that is left is the one option that would have served Americans (and the world) best all along, which is to model environmental sanity."

1-40/ES

NEW AGE THINKING

By John B. Shoven

Foreign Policy, No. 164, January-February 2008, pp. 82-83.

Will the worldwide tidal wave of aging baby boomers create a fiscal burden that will devastate the global economy? No, says Shoven, director of the Institute for Economic Policy Research at Stanford University. Our conception of "old" has itself become old-fashioned, he writes. He recommends using modern mortality risk measurements -- or the chance a person has of dying within the next year -- to measure age. The higher the mortality risk, the "older" a person is.

Today's 65-year-old man can expect to live another 17 years and has the same mortality risk a 59-year-old man did in 1970 or a 56-year-old man did in 1940. (Women, on average, live longer than men.) So, if one looks at the fraction of the U.S. population with a mortality risk higher than 1.5 percent, the growth of the "elderly" population is not that dramatic. By 2050, Shoven says, only 62.5 million Americans, or about 1.5 percent of the population, will have a mortality risk greater than 1.5 percent. Nonetheless, the average length of retirement for today's 65-year-old man has stretched to more than 19 years. To keep the costs of ever-lengthening retirements under control, Shoven recommends altering retirement ages and pensions to reflect current mortality risks.

1-41/ES

THE NEW FACE OF DEVELOPMENT

By Carol Lancaster

Current History, Vol. 107, No. 705, January 2008, pp. 36-40.

The article discusses how methods for international development may change. Development has shifted from reducing poverty to improving education, health, and human rights. The author comments that private investment is important in international development but that governments must be properly organized to maintain economic growth. Information technology has reduced international poverty. China and India have undergone major economic growth and reductions in poverty.

1-42/ES

THE PERSISTENCE OF POLITICAL THEOLOGY

By Mark Lilla

Current History, Vol. 107, No. 705, January 2008, pp. 41-46.

The article discusses the history of political theology. The author suggests Western democracies have ignored the power of political theology following the development of secular political philosophy as a replacement to Christian political theology. In his book "Leviathan," philosopher Thomas Hobbes equated religious issues questions to psychology.

1-43/ES

A SOLAR GRAND PLAN

By Ken Zweibel and others.

Scientific American, January 2008.

Solar power could eliminate U.S. dependence on imported oil and slash greenhouse gas emissions, note the authors, in this article on a bold proposal to construct a nation-wide solar-energy generation and distribution system by the year 2050. The U.S. has a quarter-million square miles in the Southwest on which tracts of photovoltaic panels and parabolic-trough solar concentrators could be built, and the electricity generated would be transmitted along high-voltage direct current lines, far more efficiently than the alternating-current lines in use today; compressed-air or molten-salt systems would be employed for overnight energy storage. It would cost the federal government USD 400 billion over the next four decades to build it, but the payoff would be far greater. The major hurdle is not technology or money, but an awareness by elected officials and the public that solar power is a practical alternative.

U.S. SOCIETY AND VALUES

1-44/SV

DESIGN THINKING

By Steven J. Bell

American Libraries, Vol. 39, Nos. 1-2, January/February 2008, pp. 44-49.

According to the author, design thinking can offer a new perspective and a creative approach in organizing the professional workspace and creating the best possible worker experience. Design thinkers take a much more deliberate and thoughtful approach to problem resolution; they rarely jump on bandwagons. The author adapts his principles (understand; observe; visualize; evaluate/refine; implement) to the library professional but emphasizes that they can be used by others as well. With design thinking, librarians can navigate users to the library and its electronic resources and move beyond the traditional mindset of library service. Books and articles by and about design thinkers, such as the *The Art of Innovation*, can provide greater detail and more concrete examples of how design thinking is applied to the creation of products and services. The Blended Librarians Online Learning Community (blendedlibrarian.org) is beginning to explore ways in which design thinking can be applied to further collaboration with community partners and help students achieve academic success.

1-45/SV

IN YOUR FACE

By Pernilla Holmes

ARTnews, vol. 106, no. 6, June 2007, pp. 106-111.

The author writes that portraiture is undergoing a renaissance, and is becoming increasingly conceptual, with many contemporary artists making portraits that are often not recognizable as such. The article profiles a number of artists who are using portraiture as a way to address personal identity, politics or social inequity. Many younger artists are using portraiture as a platform to address the mass media's obsession with celebrity, and often use sculpture or video as a medium.

1-46/SV

MELINDA GATES GOES PUBLIC

By Patricia Sellers

Fortune, Vol. 157, No. 1, January 21, 2008, pp. 44//56.

In this interview, Melinda Gates, wife of Microsoft Corp. founder Bill Gates, talks about her husband, working in partnership with Warren Buffett, and her role in the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and its new approach to philanthropy. In 2005, the foundation increased its giving for global health, including more than \$436 million in grants through its Grand Challenges in Global Health, a public-private partnership to develop health technology for the developing world that is easy to transport and use, and effective. The Gates Foundation has adopted a practical, get-it-done approach; where government-based one-size-fits-all efforts fail, the foundation instead assembles the right partners and the specific expertise required to solve a given problem. Depending on the issue, the foundation might work with governments, nonprofit organizations, businesses, or individuals. These efforts have created new incentives for corporate involvement and redefined traditional public-private boundaries, all in the name of having "the greatest impact for the most people."

1-47/SV

ORWELL IN '08

By David Rieff, David and others.

Columbia Journalism Review, Vol. 46, No. 4, November-December 2007, pp. 26-39.

George Orwell's classic 1946 essay, "Politics and the English Language," attacked murky writing, such as dying metaphors, pretentious diction, meaningless

words, and proposed that clear writing can lead to clear thinking and a better world. Principally, he went after fuzzy academics, though he included a sample of communist propaganda among his targets. After that, Orwell began work on his great book, 1984, which introduced the reader to the concept of Newspeak, the fictional but terrifying system of language designed to hobble and crush independent thought. In four essays excerpted from a new book “What Orwell Didn't Know: Propaganda and the New Face Of American Politics,” David Rieff (“Orwell Abuse”) considers Orwell as a model; Aryeh Neier (“Rights and Wrongs”) discusses the misuse of three familiar words “freedom,” “liberty,” and “rights”; Nicholas Lemann (“The Limits of Language”) worries less about bad language than about bad information; and Geoffrey Cowan (“‘Surge,’ Meet Escalation”) provides a case study in which reporters take a stand on language that affects the discourse on the war in Iraq. Finally, Brent Cunningham, CJR's managing editor, proposes (“The Rhetoric Beat”) that journalists, who are in major position to define language, help clarify public thinking in a world that seems to need it.

1-48/SV

STUDENTS FROM MUSLIM-MAJORITY COUNTRIES DISCUSS ISLAM IN AMERICA

Department of State, February 26, 2008.

<http://www.america.gov>

During a recent Ask America webchat on Islam in the United States, hosted by America.gov, a number of questions came from high school students in the West Bank, Afghanistan and Tajikistan involved in Internet learning programs made possible by the U.S. State Department's Global Connections and Exchange Program (GCE). GCE is a program of the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, which helps secondary school teachers and students in countries with predominantly Muslim populations establish Internet connections and develop Internet-based curricula to join the global Internet community.

1-49/SV

WHAT IS PUBLIC DIPLOMACY? Past Practices, Present Conduct, Possible Future

Walter R. Roberts

Mediterranean Quarterly, Vol. 18, No. 4, Fall 2007, pp. 36-52.

The author, cofounder of the Public Diplomacy Institute at George Washington University and a former

member of the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, writes that there is no agreement on what constitutes public diplomacy. A century ago, the populations of most countries were all-but-unreachable; no government had any reason to explain their policies to foreign publics. That changed with the invention of radio, which the Bolshevik and Nazi regimes used to great effect. It was the Nazi wartime propaganda activities in Latin America that prompted the U.S. to initiate cultural and academic exchanges. Roberts describes the post-WWII evolution of U.S. public diplomacy programs, which President Truman recognized were necessary during the newly-developing Cold War, and the often-thorny disagreements between “cultural” and “information” programs that led to the creation of the U.S. Information Agency. Roberts notes that in a modern, information-rich world, particularly with the development of the Internet, foreign publics are becoming more informed and sophisticated. Their attitudes are having an ever-greater impact on the actions of their governments, even in autocratic countries, and it is essential now that governments be able to reach the publics of other countries. The success of public diplomacy depends on a country's policies, and has now become an essential part of our foreign policy.